

country has come very far, but it would be a dreadful mistake to think the work is done.

Today, the Senate should vote to move forward to give America's restaurants, local gyms, minor league teams, and other small businesses a much-needed lifeline. We will give our restaurants a much-needed lifeline to get back on their feet after the pandemic.

Our restaurants and small businesses are suffering. They need help. This bill says help is on the way.

These restaurants are the beating hearts of our communities. We are not talking about huge restaurants. They are not big venues with big publicity.

The restaurants we are talking about are family-owned restaurants, family-owned businesses, where Americans have always come together. They are the beating hearts of our communities.

To have banks foreclose on these places because they are struggling with loans left over from COVID when they were forced to close would be a tragedy—a tragedy for jobs lost, for the communities affected, and for creating future prosperity.

So the Senate should be leaping into action to support our restaurants and small businesses.

I want to thank the diligent, persistent work by the great Senator from Maryland, BEN CARDIN—the work he has done.

I want to thank his partner, Senator WICKER. This is a bipartisan bill.

And to just debate how we can help these vital parts of the American economy, these vital parts of American communities, is not too much to ask.

I urge both sides of the aisle for a strong yes vote.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 344, S. 4008, a bill to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Ron Wyden, Elizabeth Warren, Jacky Rosen, Mark Kelly, Ben Ray Lujan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Baldwin, Mazie K. Hirono, Maria Cantwell, Chris Van Hollen, Margaret Wood Hassan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 4008, a bill to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms,

minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 192 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Blunt	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hagerty	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Fischer	Paul	Young
Graham	Portman	
Grassley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—5

Brown	Marshall	Van Hollen
Ernst	Rosen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 43.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 855, Stephanie Dawkins Davis, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy,

Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie K. Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Maria Cantwell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephanie Dawkins Davis, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 193 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Heinrich	Ossoff
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hirono	Peters
Booker	Kaine	Reed
Cantwell	Kelly	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Sinema
Collins	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warnock
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Graham	Murphy	Wyden
	Murray	

NAYS—36

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	Paul	Wicker

NOT VOTING—16

Braun	Inhofe	Shaheen
Brown	Marshall	Tillis
Cassidy	Moran	Van Hollen
Cramer	Portman	Young
Ernst	Rosen	
Hassan	Rounds	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 36.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephanie Dawkins Davis, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEATH OF SHIREEN ABU AKLEH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I join Secretary Blinken in calling for a thorough, impartial investigation of the tragic death of widely respected Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, in the Jenin refugee camp on May 4. According to press reports, Israel has already launched an investigation. Some Members of Congress have called for the FBI to be involved. I echo that recommendation. The investigation will also require the participation of Palestinian authorities. Too often, shootings of unarmed civilians in the occupied territories have gone unpunished. This must not be one of those cases.

In addition, Israeli authorities must hold accountable those who were responsible for, and participated in, the chaos that erupted during Ms. Abu Akleh's funeral procession, when Israeli police beat mourners with batons, including the pallbearers, causing them to momentarily drop one end of the casket. The explanation provided by Israeli police officials, that mourners had been chanting nationalist slogans and waving Palestinian flags, in no way justifies their lack of judgment, disrespect, and use of unnecessary force in what should have been a solemn, peaceful procession deserving of their protection.

ALAA ABDEL FATTAH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last month, dozens of Egyptian political

prisoners, including journalists, opposition activists, and lawmakers, were released from pretrial detention—the second group since July last year. These individuals had been behind bars on charges of spreading fake news and collaborating with a terrorist organization, accusations that are frequently used to silence critics of the al Sisi government.

These releases were welcome news, but thousands of other opposition figures remain behind bars for acts of free speech and association that are not crimes under international law. One of those is Alaa Abdel Fattah, a blogger, software developer, and political activist who is also a British citizen, who has already spent years in prison. He is now reportedly in his 6th week of a hunger strike to protest the inhumane conditions he and other prisoners are forced to endure.

Mr. Abdel Fattah was arrested in September 2019, along with his lawyer, Mohamed El Bager, while on a 5-year probation period after his conviction for the non-crime of spreading “fake news,” requiring him to spend 12 hours of each day at a police station. He had been released only 6 months earlier after spending 4 years behind bars.

He received a 5-year sentence last December after spending more than 2 years in pre-trial detention. He has reportedly been denied access to reading and writing material and has not been exposed to sunlight in months. Visitation with a single family member is limited to a mere 20 minutes per month.

The Egyptian Government has pointed to the lifting of the longstanding emergency law in October and the release of a new human rights strategy as evidence of progress. Compared to nothing, that is arguably true. But as long as people like Mr. Abdel Fattah are denied due process and treated in ways reminiscent of the Middle Ages, it is hard to take seriously Egypt's new “human rights strategy.”

Egypt is an important ally of the United States. We share a common interest in a peaceful Middle East. But on human rights we have profound differences. I urge the Egyptian authorities to match their words with actions. A serious human rights strategy would include repealing laws that are used to criminalize speech and association, real consequences for ignoring maximum limits on pre-trial detention, and protections of the rights of prisoners. A good first step would be the immediate release of Mr. Abdel Fattah, who never should have been arrested in the first place.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, last weekend, I experienced a minor stroke in the form of a small venous tear at the back of

my head and, out of an abundance of caution, have been following my doctor's advice to remain under observation and rest for a few days. I am grateful for the warm wishes I have received from my colleagues and constituents from across Maryland and the excellent care of the medical team at George Washington University Hospital. Following my doctor's orders, I'll begin to ease back into my schedule.

Had I been present to vote today, I would have voted in favor of the critical package of aid for Ukraine. The people of Ukraine continue to stand up to Vladimir Putin's unprovoked attack, and today's aid package will deliver military and humanitarian aid to strengthen their forces and care for refugees. There was no reason to delay this crucial support, and I am glad it has finally passed.

I would have also voted in support of today's bill to deliver much-needed relief to restaurants and small businesses in Maryland and across the country who are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. I hear regularly from these businesses, who have worked hard to stay afloat and continue to struggle through no fault of their own. America's restaurants are at the center of their communities, and we must support them through this unprecedented time. I am disappointed that many of my Republican colleagues voted against proceeding today, and we once again saw the damage of the filibuster to progress for the American people. I will continue to work to persuade my colleagues of the urgency of this support.

I look forward to returning soon to work alongside you all for the people of my great State of Maryland.●

SMALL BUSINESS COVID RELIEF ACT

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, restaurants in Georgia have been among the small businesses worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and I am working every day to help them recover and thrive. Today, I voted that the Senate should proceed to debate S. 4008, the Small Business COVID Relief Act, legislation intended to help businesses impacted by COVID-19, including small, independent restaurants that were unable previously to access emergency relief via the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

However, should the Senate proceed to debate this measure, as I voted today that we should, the bill should be amended such that it is well targeted and more fiscally responsible in order to earn my support in a vote on final passage. While I support this legislation's aims—helping small businesses, especially small and independent restaurants—and while I believe we should proceed to debate it, I would oppose it in its present form should such modifications not be adopted.

I appreciate the support of the bill's lead sponsor, Senator CARDIN, who has